

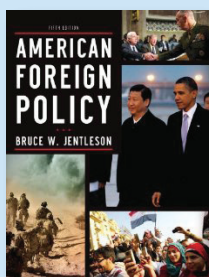


American Resource Center Newsletter U.S. Embassy Helsinki January 2014, Issue 1

Congratulations to MOOC Graduates!

We congratulate all of the graduates of "21st Century U.S. Foreign Policy," who visited us at the Embassy to share their thoughts on the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) offered by Duke University on December 13, 2013! Chargé d'Affaires Susan Elbow spoke with participants about the issues raised by the course and their desire for a future course on trade issues.

MOOC on 21st Century American Foreign Policy was offered through the Duke University and taught by Professor Bruce Jentleson. Students explored questions such as what is American foreign policy, who makes it, why is it the way it is, and how does it affect the rest of the world. Professor Bruce Jentleson has taught the subject for over 30 years, written one of the leading books on it, and has served in numerous U.S. foreign policy positions.



Professor Jentleson's book *American Foreign Policy* (5th ed.) is available for homeloan from the American Resource Center.



Chargé d'Affaires Susan Elbow with Assistant Public Affairs Officer Amy Hirsch and graduates of the MOOC on 21st Century American Foreign Policy. (Photo by U.S. State Department)

Find out more:

Coursera: 21st Century American Foreign Policy
<https://www.coursera.org/course/afp21stcentury>

MOOC Helsinki: 21st Century American Foreign Policy
<http://moochelsinki.wordpress.com/>

Upcoming: State of the Union *(see also page 4)*

Stay tuned for President Barack Obama's State of the Union address on Tuesday, January 28 at 9 PM ET / 4 AM EET.

House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) sent the following letter to President Obama in December, formally inviting him to deliver his State of the Union address.

December 13, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As we round out the first session of the 113th Congress, we look ahead to the new year and with it the annual tradition of the president's State of the Union address. In the coming year, Americans expect Washington to focus on their priorities and to look for common ground in addressing the challenges facing our country. In that spirit, we welcome an opportunity to hear your ideas, particularly for putting Americans back to work. It's my honor to invite you to speak before a Joint Session of Congress on Tuesday, January 28, 2014, in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol Building. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

JOHN BOEHNER
Speaker of the House

<http://www.speaker.gov/press-release/speaker-boehner-extends-president-obama-invitation-deliver-state-union-address>



President Barack Obama (Photo by White House)

WebPicks

collected by the ARC staff

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American Life

11 Reasons 2014 Will Be A Breakout Year For Women Entrepreneurs by Geri Stengel. Forbes, January 2014.
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/geristengel/2014/01/08/11-reasons-2014-will-be-a-break-out-year-for-women-entrepreneurs/>

America's Least-Favorite City Has Become Television's Favorite Subject by T.A. Frank. New Republic, November 25, 2013.
Who really showruns America? Our twisted view of power – as seen on TV.
<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/115690/washington-tv-politics-scandal-homeland-veep>

An American Romantic by Christopher Benfey. The New York Review of Books, December 19, 2013.
The Case for Norman Rockwell!
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2013/dec/19/norman-rockwell-american-romantic?page=1>

Bill Gates and President Bill Clinton on the NSA, Safe Sex, and American Exceptionalism by Steven Levy. Wired, December 2013.
<http://www.wired.com/business/2013/11/bill-gates-bill-clinton-wired/all/>

The Graying of 'The New York Review of Books' by Russell Jacoby. The Chronicle of Higher Education, January 6, 2014.
In a world of disappearing and diminishing book reviews, every two weeks The New York Review of Books slaps to the table with a satisfying thud. Printed in a large format, its 60 pages—at least!—reassure those of us obsessed with books that the world is not totally lost. Here are serious essays by serious reviewers on serious books.
http://chronicle.com/article/The-Graying-of-the-NYRB/143759?cid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

Soft Skills for the Workplace by Patrick C. Kyllonen. Change, November/December 2013.
It was not that long ago that many management consultants, economists, industrial-organizational psychologists, and laypeople believed that cognitive skill was the single most important predictor. What happened to change that?
http://www.changemag.org/Archives/Back%20Issues/2013/November-December%202013/soft_skills_full.html

This Is the Man Bill Gates Thinks You Absolutely Should Be Reading by Clive Thompson. Wired, December 2013.
<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2013/11/vaclav-smil-wired/>

Yahoo's Geek Goddess by Bethany McLean. Vanity Fair, January 2014.
When Google's first female engineer, Marissa Mayer, jumped ship to go to Yahoo, everyone cheered. Can Mayer fix both the company's problems and her own?
<http://www.vanityfair.com/business/2014/01/marissa-mayer-yahoo-google>

Economy & Politics

Exclusive: The Inside Story of GM's Comeback and Mary Barra's Rise by Tim Higgins and Bryant Urstadt. Bloomberg BusinessWeek, December 12, 2013.
Dan Akerson, the chairman and chief executive officer of General Motors (GM), arrives at the company's Technical Center on Nov. 13 to address about 1,000 engineers and designers.
<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-12-12/exclusive-the-inside-story-of-gms-comeback-and-mary-barras-rise>

Here Comes the Anti-Government Left by Noam Scheiber. New Republic, January 12, 2014.
Ever since Bill de Blasio coasted to the Democratic nomination for mayor of New York, political taxonomists have fixated on a new left-wing ideology: "deBlasio-Warren populism," a kind of Germanic rhetorical synthesis of the mayor and the Massachusetts senator. Critics and boosters alike have crowned the two pols leaders of the same movement, albeit with centrists warning that it represents an electoral "dead end" and liberals cheering the clarifying virtues of the new "progressive populism."
<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/116193/anti-government-left-elizabeth-warren-stronger-bill-de-blasio>

Hillary Clinton's Unapologetically Hawkish Record Faces 2016 Test by Michael Crowley. The Time, January 14, 2014.
Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates's new memoir hasn't been a welcome development for Hillary Clinton. In one of the book's most quoted passages, Gates writes that he witnessed Clinton make a startling confession to Barack Obama: she had opposed George W. Bush's last-ditch effort to salvage the Iraq war, the 2007 troop "surge," because the politics of the 2008

Democratic primaries demanded it.

<http://swampland.time.com/2014/01/14/hillary-clintons-unapologetically-hawkish-record-faces-2016-test/>

Who's Getting Obamacare? by Jonathan Cohn. New Republic, January 13, 2014.

The Obama Administration has released detailed information about enrollment in the Affordable Care Act—not just how many people are signing up for insurance, but also what kind of people and what plans they are choosing. These Four Charts Give Some Big Clues.

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/116202/hhs-releases-obamacare-enrollment-data-young-slower-sign>

Global Challenges

12 Maps That Changed the World by Uri Friedman. The Atlantic, December 30 2013.

Is there such a thing as a perfect map?

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/12/12-maps-that-changed-the-world/282666/>

Drowning Kiribati by Jeffrey Goldberg. BloombergBusinessweek, November 21, 2013.

This entire country is about to be wiped out by climate change. It won't be the last.

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-11-21/kiribati-climate-change-destroys-pacific-island-nation>

In 1964, Isaac Asimov Imagined the World in 2014 by Rebecca J. Rosen. The Atlantic, December 31, 2013.

But he couldn't have known the consequences of the development he predicted—a planet whose climate is badly destabilized, whose inhabitants face mass extinctions in the years ahead.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/12/in-1964-isaac-asimov-imagined-the-world-in-2014/282728/>

The Mighty Pen by Alice Su. Columbia Journalism Review, November/December 2013.

A new project trains Syrians in Jordan to report on themselves.

http://www.cjr.org/feature/the_mighty_pen.php?page=all

Predictions for 2014: Energy is anything but conventional by David J. Unger. The Christian Science Monitor, December 27, 2013.

With dramatic new sources of both supply and demand emerging across the globe, energy is poised to get even more unconventional in 2014. What's next for oil, gas, and renewables?

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/1227/Predictions-for-2014-Energy-is-anything-but-conventional>

International Relations

Best International Relations Books of 2013 by Foreign Affairs. December 29, 2013.

Every year, ten scholars review dozens of recently published academic and popular nonfiction books for Foreign Affairs. As this year came to a close, the editors asked each of the reviewers to choose the three best of 2013.

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/features/collections/best-international-relations-books-of-2013>

Can Iraq Survive? by Ted Galen Carpenter. The National Interest, January 14, 2014.

The explosion of fighting in Iraq's Anbar province is creating consternation in U.S. foreign policy circles, as worries increase about the possibility of civil war and the final collapse of Washington's once-fond hopes for a stable, democratic, pro-Western country. Recriminations are especially loud among the usual neoconservative suspects, including Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who argue that the Obama administration's fecklessness has opened Iraq to an Al Qaeda offensive that could unravel all that Washington achieved, at great cost in blood and treasure, with and following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/can-iraq-survive-9703>

President's Goal for NSA Reform — No More Edward Snowdens by Justin Sink and Julian Hattem. The Hill, January 14, 2014.

The Obama administration plans to overhaul the nation's security clearance system to prevent future intelligence leaks like the one by former defense contractor Edward Snowden. The changes, part of a package of reforms President Obama is expected to announce Friday during a speech at the Justice Department, will include more stringent — and more frequent — vetting of security clearances, according to sources familiar with the administration's plans.

<http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/195326-presidents-goal-for-nsa-reform-no-more-edward-snowdens>

The Worldview of Barack Obama by Michael Lumbers. The National Interest, January 13, 2014.

As Barack Obama enters the fifth year of his presidency, the broad outlines of a distinct worldview, if not an Obama Doctrine, have come into focus. Specifically, the administration's recent response to events in the Middle East — e.g., balking at retaliating against Bashar al-Assad for using chemical weapons, reaching an interim nuclear deal with Iran — underscores a determination to exhaust diplomatic options and, with memories of a decade of draining, inconclusive war still clear, avoid entanglement in messy conflicts of dubious strategic value.

<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/the-worldview-barack-obama-9699>

'Tis the Season...

Since we are a little late with Christmas gifts this season we wanted to send out best wishes for the year 2014 ... and cool prizes to four lucky ones who know the right answer in our January Presidential trivia to commemorate the upcoming State of the Union address on Jan 28th. To participate in the raffle, go to http://finland.usembassy.gov/presidential_quiz.html, use your wits (or the wealth of presidential trivia resources available at the ARC), follow the instructions, and voilà - you may just be one of the lucky ones!

Good luck!



New @ the ARC Magazine Shelf

The ARC subscribes to the following new periodicals starting January 2014:

American Road: a quarterly, all-color, 84-page magazine that celebrates America's two-lane highways and the people and places that make them great.
<http://www.americanroadmagazine.com/>

Inc. magazine: a monthly publication focused on growing companies. The magazine publishes an annual list of the 500 fastest-growing private companies in the U.S., the "Inc. 500." (*Wikipedia*)
<http://www.inc.com/>

Utne Reader: a bimonthly American magazine that collects and reprints articles on politics, culture, and the environment, generally from alternative media sources including journals, newsletters, weeklies, zines, music, and DVDs.
(*Wikipedia*)
<http://www.utne.com/>



Did You Know?

Monday, January 20th, is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is an American Federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

It is observed on the third Monday of January, around the time of Dr. King's birthday on January 15th.

The U.S. Embassy Helsinki will be closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, but the ARC remains open.

Happy Birthday, Dr. King!



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



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